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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Toshio TAMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Applicant No. : 09/807,965 (National Stage of PCT/JP99/05946)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed : April 26, 2001 (International Filing Date October 27, 1999)

For : SALES SUPPORT SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97-1.98, applicants call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

In an International Search Report, issued on February 1, 2000, for counterpart PCT/JP99/05946, the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-146945, published on June 15, 1993, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document (i.e., document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art) with respect to claims 1-28 and 39-63;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-4553, published on January 14, 1994, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document

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with respect to claims 1-28 and 39-63;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-298339, published on November 12, 1993, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 1-28 and 39-63;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-23443, published on February 1, 1994, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 4-28;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 2-240767, published on September 25, 1990, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claim 22;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 1-92125, published on April 11, 1989, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 23-28, 62 and 63;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-316211, published on December 2, 1998, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as an E-Category document (i.e., earlier document but published on or after the international filing date) and a Y-Category document with respect to claims 24-28, 62 and 63;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-249380, published on September 27, 1996, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 29-38, 44-50, and 64-68;

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Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-27198, published on January 27, 1998, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 29-38, 44-50, and 64-68;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-124584, published on May 15, 1998, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 29-38, 44-50, and 64-68;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-139252, published on May 20, 1994, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 34-38, 44-50, and 64-68; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-231170, published on September 5, 1997, along with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 33 and 65.

Applicants also submit an International Preliminary Examination Report, issued on October 17, 2000 for the same counterpart application. All of the above-noted documents were cited in this Report, as well as EP 0 466 089, published on January 15, 1992.

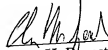
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents, as well as copies of the International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report, are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicants note that an Office Action on the Merits has not issued in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the Merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to be charged to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshio TAMURA et al.
Reg. No. 40,063



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

July 31, 2001
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U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.
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09/807,965

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Toshio TAMURA et al.

Filing Date
April 26, 2001

Group
Not Yet Assigned

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER _____ DATE CONSIDERED _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

